(b) if these trustees have lower yields on PF than the prescribed 9 per cent norm, whether the companies are required to pay from their pockets to make up the shortfall; and

(c) if not, whether the Employees' PF Organisation would step in to manage PF of such exempted companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) As on 31.3.2003, 2564 establishment having total corpus of Rs. 36,804.67 crores have been exempted from provisions of the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme, 1952.

(b) Yes, Sir. In accordance with the conditions for grant of exemption notified under para 27AA of the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952, the deficiency in the rate of interest shall be made good by the employer.

(c) The exempted establishment have to comply with the terms and conditions prescribed under para 27AA of the EPF Scheme, 1952 for grant of exemption. In case of non-compliance by the exempted establishments, an appropriate action including cancellation of exemption as per the provisions of the EPF Scheme, 1952 is taken by the Government.

Labour unrest in Assam Tea Estates

1283. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the labour unrest in several Tea Gardens in Assam which led to the Killings of several Managers of some of the Gardens;

(b) whether it is a fact that the living conditions of the labourers have not been improved and also there is no increase in their wages and other facilities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what effective measures have been devised to eradicate the grievances of the workers as surfaced during such unrest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) According to information received from Government of Assam, the overall labour situation in 850 tea gardens in Assam is reported to be by and large peaceful. However, there were two reported incidents of violence in which two subordinate executives and an Assistant Manager were killed.

(b) No, Sir. The State Government have revised the daily rate of wages of unskilled plantation workers to Rs. 48.50 (Rupees forty eight and paise fifty only) *w.e.f.* 01.09.2002 under the Minimum Wages Act, 1984.

(c) The field enforcing machinery in the Directorate of Labour, Government of Assam has been looking after the effective implementation of the provisions of the Plantation Labour Act, 1951 in their respective jurisdiction and the statutory and non-statutory bodies discuss in their periodic meetings the issues connected with the improving of living conditions of plantation workers and the decisions so arrived at are being implemented. The State Government has also constituted District level Committees in the State for monitoring implementation of the provisions of the Plantations Labour Act, 1951.

Creation of additional employment opportunities

†1284. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made with regard to the creation of additional employment opportunities on the basis of eight per cent annual growth rate during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the number of additional employment opportunities expected to be generated from eight per cent annual growth rate; and

(c) the number of additional employment opportunities expected in agriculture, industry and service sectors, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Government is targeting generation of 50 million employment opportunities (10 million per year) during the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.